

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037481

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ORIGIN AF-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 R

DRAFTED BY: AF/W:MR LOLLIS:NB

APPROVED BY: AF:DCARDWELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS NIACT

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (NIACT OMITTED)

PRETORIA PASS CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON PARIS MOSCOW
DOUALA KADUNA IBADAN FROM LAGOS DTD 14 FEB 1976 QUOTE

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS AND
CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: 0GOV, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: OBASANJO NAMED NEW HEAD OF FMG

REF: LAGOS 1882

1. AT 1225 HOURS LOCAL SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED
"TRAGIC DEATH" OF FORMER HEAD OF STATE GENERAL MURTALA MUHAMMED.
STATEMENT SAID HE WAS ASSASSINATED YESTERDAY MORNING BY LT. COL.
DIMKA AND SMALL BAND OF DISSIDENT OFFICERS WHO NOW UNDER ARREST.
MUHAMMED FUNERAL IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY IN KANO. SEVEN
DAYS OF NATIONAL MOURNING HAVE BEEN DECREED; ALL FLAGS TO BE
FLOWN AT HALF MAST.

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2. SUM FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT LT. GENERAL

O. OBASANJO HAD BEEN UNANIMOUSLY CHOSED BY SMC AS NEW HEAD OF
FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF NIGERIAN
ARMED FORCES. FORMER COMMISSIONER TRANSPORT LT. COL. YAR A'DUA HAS
BEEN NAMED NEW CHIEF OF STAFF SUPREME HEADQUARTERS AND PROMOTED TO
BRIGADIER.

3. OBASANJO TO MAKE NATIONWIDE BRAODCAST THIS EVENING AT 2100
HOURS LOCAL.

4. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER SENDING PRESIDENTIAL
MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO NEW HEAD OF STATE. IN VIEW FMG'S
REACTION TO "UNSIGNED "PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION OVER ANGOLAN
POLICY (AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE SEND PERSONAL EMMISARIES TO DELIVER
SIGNED LETTERS) SUGGEST SIGNED ORIGINAL BE DELIVERED TO NIGERIAN
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND COMMERCIAL CABLE BE SENT DIRECTLY TO FMG,
DODAN BARRACKS, LAGOS, WITH INFO COPY TO EMBASSY.
EASUM UNQTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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